

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An induction heating system for heating metal strips, using a longitudinal magnetic flux, the heating system comprising: an inductor ~~surrounding~~ having its windings traversed by the strip; and two magnetic field deflectors located inside ~~coils-windings~~ of the inductor, the deflectors being positioned on longitudinal edges of the strip and covering the edges the shape and arrangement of the deflectors masking the inductor coils at the edges of the strip .
2. (Previously Presented) The heating system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the deflectors are U-shaped, with branches covering the edges of the strip to be heated.
3. (Previously Presented) The heating system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the deflectors are positioned along all or part of the length of the inductor.
4. (Currently Amended) The heating system as claimed in claim 1, together with U-shaped screens located inside the inductor and having ends which are shaped so as to increase their effectiveness.